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FACT SHEET

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Administration of Justice Fund

The Administration of Justice Fund allows civic-minded individuals or groups to make monetary donations that assist the Judicial Council of California, the California Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and the Administrative Office of the Courts in conducting special outreach activities, events, or programs that support the goals of the judicial branch, but for which state funds may not be expended or are not readily available. The fund is not used to finance core judicial functions. Programs that receive funds, however, must directly relate to the purposes of the judicial branch.

Background on the Establishment of the Fund

The Judicial Council and the judicial branch often have occasion to organize special outreach activities, events, or programs that benefit and support the goals of the judicial branch, but for which funding may not be readily available.

The ability to produce materials for public education and to host conferences, meetings, or other outreach efforts that facilitate the exchange of ideas and foster relationships within the judicial branch or between the branch and courts of other states or countries can be fiscally challenging.

In 2002, Ralph Shapiro, a California businessman, lawyer, and philanthropist, first raised the idea of establishing a fund that would allow civic-minded individuals or groups to donate funds to assist the Judicial Council and the judicial branch in carrying out these types of activities. Mr. Shapiro recognized that these activities, although not core court functions, assist the branch in carrying out its mission.

The Administrative Office of the Courts' legal and finance staff worked, with Mr. Shapiro's support, to create the fund and establish guidelines for its use. As a result, the Administration of Justice Fund was established through the California State Controller's Office in 2002. Ralph and Shirley Shapiro were the first to make a contribution and have continued to make contributions to the fund in subsequent years.

The public-spirited generosity of the Shapiros and other donors to the fund has benefited many programs and events that support the judicial branch and advance the Judicial Council's goal of improving the administration of justice in California.

How Is the Fund Administered?

The Administration of Justice Fund is a continuously appropriated fund held by the State Treasurer. The fund was established for the purpose of accepting gifts of monies found to be in the best interest of the State of California for the Judicial Council, Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Rule 10.102 of the California Rules of Court authorizes the Administrative Director of the Courts or his designee to accept gifts on behalf of these entities.

The Administrative Director of the Courts or the AOC Chief Deputy Director has the authority to disburse money from the fund. AOC division directors may submit a proposed request to the AOC Executive Office for use of the funds.

How Are Expenditures Reported?

All fund expenditures are submitted to the California State Controller's Office for processing as they are incurred. Along with other judicial branch funds, the Administration of Justice Fund is included in the Controller's checklist of funds for which certification of year-end financial reports is required.

Contributions to Date and Current Balance (as of March 2011)

Since the fund's inception eight years ago (2002), the following contributions and expenditures have been made:

• Amount contributed by donors since 2002	\$240,600.00
• Interest since 2002	\$ 13,634.22
• Current Fund Balance	\$ 41,375.77

How Is the Fund Used?

The fund is used in ways that are consistent with the goals of building relationships between the judicial branch and justice system partners, recognizing the accomplishments of individuals in improving the justice system, implementing education or research programs to improve the courts, and paying expenses related to judicial functions that may not be reimbursed from operating budgets.

Examples of expenses that are supported by the fund include printed materials, travel expenses for guest speakers, service awards presented to employees, floral

arrangements sent to the family of a judicial officer upon his or her death, and food or beverages served following a meeting, workshop, conference, or similar event whose purpose is related to the function of the judicial branch.

The judicial branch does not use taxpayer money to pay for such expenses, which in the past had been paid from the personal funds of judicial officers or judicial branch employees. The Shapiros made donations to the fund with the intent that these expenses could be paid from the fund rather than by judicial officers or judicial branch employees using their personal funds.

Support for one-time programs

First Amendment Art Contest: In 2010, and again in 2011, the AOC and the Constitutional Rights Foundation collaborated on a First Amendment cartoon art contest for students in public and private elementary, middle, and high schools. The contest promotes awareness about the court system and the jointly sponsored Web site, www.courtsed.org, which features the online animated educational resource *Courts in the Classroom*. Both organizations are committed to promoting students' civic education, including an understanding of the role of an independent judiciary in our democracy.

Specific Fund Use: The fund contributed to prizes for the winning artwork.

How the Courts Failed Germany: Law, Justice, and the Holocaust: In a 2010 judicial branch education program, Dr. William Meinecke from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum examined the pressure faced by German jurists under the Nazis and its implications. The program facilitated discussion about the role played by the law and judges in the destruction of democracy and the establishment of the Nazi German state, and the lessons learned for the role of courts in today's society. Held in three locations (Sacramento, U.C. Irvine, and San Francisco) for judicial officers, clerk administrators, court executive officers, and justice system partners, this program was partially funded by the State Bar Foundation, local bars, U.C. Irvine, and the Administration of Justice Fund.

Specific Fund Use: The fund was used to provide lunch for participants.

Orange County Schools Artwork Project for the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District: To create artwork for the new Court of Appeal courthouse in Santa Ana, middle and high school student-artists, including some from the Otto Fischer School in Juvenile Hall, studied opinions issued by the court and created 13 justice-themed

paintings of the cases that inspired them. The students created art pieces based on the “stories” behind select opinions authored by the court. Information was provided on 50 opinions, and it was left up to the various schools to decide which ones they would use. The art was publicly unveiled at the 2009 opening of the new courthouse. The Orange County Superintendent of Schools has cited the project as an excellent civic education tool.

Specific Fund Use: The fund helped purchase canvases, frames, and other materials for this project.

California Science and the Law Conference: Three states, including California, were asked to form a coalition to address the changing needs of the courts regarding scientific issues. In response to the request, the Chief Justice appointed a Science and the Law Steering Committee and a Science and the Law Education Committee in 2005.

The steering committee established criteria and implemented the selection of 45 California judges to participate in a “resource judge” project that involved concentrated training and education over a two-year period and a four-year commitment to serve their courts and fellow judges who have these types of complex cases. A Science and the Law Conference was convened at the Salk Institute in 2005. Conference discussions formed the basis for education guidelines to increase the “science literacy” of California jurists. The guidelines paved the way for the creation of an ongoing formal education program to assist judges in evaluating scientific evidence and expert testimony in cases that come before them.

Specific Fund Use: On behalf of the Judicial Council, commemorative items were presented to faculty members in recognition of their voluntary contribution of time and expertise in the development and implementation of this groundbreaking effort for California’s court system.

Centennial Celebration of the California Courts of Appeal: The California Courts of Appeal commemorated their 100th anniversary in 2005 with a series of events, publications, and educational programs recognizing the contributions of the appellate courts to the rule of law and to the lives of the state’s residents. Activities included a centennial dinner to which all current and former appellate justices were invited; a special court session during which the six administrative presiding justices of the Courts of Appeal, as well as other speakers from throughout the state, presented their perspectives on the significance of the courts; collection of documents and artifacts constituting a historical record of the courts; a publication and video on the history

of the Courts of Appeal; and an appellate court exhibit that was displayed at courts and other locations throughout the state.

Specific Fund Use: The fund provided partial support for the centennial dinner.

Exhibit on *Brown v. Board of Education*: In 2004, the Judicial Council celebrated the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* (barring racial segregation in public education) with a series of events aimed at educating the public and the courts. Events to honor this decision included satellite broadcasts to courts on the significance of *Brown* and other California civil rights cases; a statewide symposium for judges, attorneys, court officials, and community leaders on the *Brown* legacy; and preparation and distribution of a *Court Education and Resource Guide* providing curricula, resources, and tips for local courts wishing to develop *Brown*-related programs and activities.

Specific Fund Use: The fund provided the resources to bring part of the Long Walk to Freedom historical exhibit to the 2004 California Exposition and State Fair—an annual event that regularly draws more than 1 million visitors. The interactive exhibit focused on the civil rights movement in California and across the United States.

Support for recurring programs

Recognition and Acknowledgment of Judicial Branch Leaders and Employees: As the policymaking body for the California court system, the Judicial Council recognizes individuals, courts, and justice system partners for outstanding dedication and service to the judicial branch and the people of California. The council does so through programs such as its annual Distinguished Service Awards and Kleps Awards, for which plaques are presented, and through the presentation of resolutions and certificates.

Specific Fund Use: The Judicial Council necessarily has limited discretion for the use of public monies for these types of expenditures. The fund allows the council and the AOC to formally recognize individuals for service to the branch and the people of California and to reinforce their connection and importance to the court family. The fund has been used to extend appreciation, congratulations, condolences, and get-well wishes (e.g., food and beverages for receptions; plaques; certificates; floral arrangements) to judges, justices, court employees, and (in cases of condolence) their families.

The Shapiro Purpose of Justice Lecture: This lecture series was established in 2006 to provide judicial branch leaders, employees, and justice system partners a unique

opportunity to hear from distinguished national and international speakers on diverse issues and developments affecting the social, political, and legal environments.

The lectures are held at the Judicial Council's headquarters in San Francisco. The approximately 200 invitees include the Judicial Council, the chairs of the council's advisory committees and task forces, justices of the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeal, the executive leadership and employees of the AOC, and other key justice system partners, including state and local bar members.

Lecture speakers have included:

- Kenneth R. Feinberg, former Special Master for the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund, who discussed the role of the courts with respect to post-9/11 cases and the compensation fund and shared his perspective on serving as special master;
- Arizona's Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor, who spoke on sentencing and community corrections challenges facing the judicial branch;
- Justice Albie Sachs of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, who addressed issues of constitutional justice in post-apartheid South Africa; and
- Dean Kenneth Starr and Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, who debated the impact of several significant opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court on state government and the judiciary.

Specific Fund Use: The fund has been used to cover any speaker travel costs and post-lecture receptions.

New Judicial Officer Orientation Program: Each year, the AOC coordinates approximately 10 one-week New Judge Orientation programs for newly appointed trial court judges, commissioners, and referees. The orientation program is designed to introduce the new bench officers to their judicial duties and familiarize them with their ethical responsibilities—to ensure fairness in all proceedings, promote uniform court practices, and improve the administration of justice. The orientation program is mandatory for new judges, commissioners, and referees under rule 10.462(c) of the California Rules of Court.

Specific Fund Use: This week-long education program includes a simple reception for the judicial officers, where they meet with the Administrative Director of the Courts, AOC Chief Deputy Director, other directors of the AOC, and, when on-site, members of the Judicial Council. Each judicial officer is presented with an official

group photograph of their visit with the Chief Justice. The fund provides resources for the reception and photographs.

Administrative Office of the Courts' Forums: The AOC Forum program was established in 2002 to broaden staff awareness and knowledge on diverse issues and developments within the social, political, and legal environments. Guest speakers address important and sometimes controversial issues that are of relevance to the justice system. The programs are held periodically throughout the year. The typical audience is made up of AOC staff and employees of the Supreme Court and First Appellate District of the Court of Appeal. Speakers have included Fr. Gregory Boyle, founder and director of Los Angeles-based Jobs for a Future/Homeboy Industries (for gang-involved youth); California Supreme Court Associate Justice Carlos R. Moreno; and Professor Gary Marchant of Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

Specific Fund Use: The fund has been used to pay speakers' travel expenses.

California Judicial Branch Calendar: The printing of three successive years of the California Judicial Branch Calendar was made possible by the fund. The calendars were produced with the goal of fostering the statewide identity of the judicial branch and building knowledge and pride in the branch's achievements among court and bar leaders. In every calendar, significant dates in the evolution of California's judicial branch, from precedent-setting cases to historic reforms in judicial administration, were identified. Also noted were other "firsts" for California's state court system.

- In 2006, the first calendar, *Delivering Justice*, used vintage postcard images of California courthouses from every geographic region of the state.
- The 2007 calendar, *For the People*, highlighted the range of court services and programs administered by courts statewide for the benefit of the public they serve.
- The 2008 calendar was a daily calendar focusing on information and facts that reflect the vital role of California's judicial branch of government, as well as the multiplicity of issues impacting our courts and the public.

The calendars were distributed to all judges, justices, court executive officers, and justice system partners from the state and local bar associations.

Specific Fund Use: Calendar printing costs were covered by the fund.

National and International Justice System Outreach and Events: California's judges and court administrators are active leaders and contributors to the advancement of

national and international efforts on justice system reform. Through involvement in a multitude of professional organizations such as the Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators, the Institute for Court Management, the National Center for State Courts, the State-Federal Judicial Council, and the national and international visitors program coordinated by the AOC, representatives of California's judicial branch work to foster cooperation and effective information sharing to improve the justice system for all people.

Specific Fund Use: The following examples represent ways in which the fund has contributed support in this area.

Building Awareness and Support on Judicial Branch Issues: A representative delegation from the Judicial Council and the AOC participated in a series of meetings in Washington, D.C., with California's congressional legislators and representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. AOC, the U.S. General Services Administration, and the National Center for State Courts, among others, on issues impacting the California courts. The fund was utilized for a California delegation dinner.

Mexico Judicial Delegation Visit to California: The California courts periodically participate in educational exchange/visits with the Mexico judiciary to build and strengthen a common understanding on justice system issues affecting these contiguous regions. The fund was used for a working lunch during a justice system roundtable attended by visiting judges from Michoacán, Mexico; Judicial Council representatives; the Governor's legal affairs secretary; and representatives of the Office of the Attorney General and the California Public Defenders Association, among others.

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